

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03290 140000Z

61

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 131815Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9564

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3290

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, PLO, US

SUBJ: IMPORTANCE OF TALKING TO ARAFAT

REF : BEIRUT 2942

1. NO MATTER HOW FAST-PACED OR KALEIDOSCPIC EVENTS HERE IN LEBANON MAY SEEM, THERE SEEMS TO ME NO REPEAT NO WAY AROUND THE CENTRAL ROLE WHICH YASSIR 'ARAFAT CAN AND WILL PLAY IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE STATE OF SECURITY HERE. WITH SYRIAN MILITARY POWER IN MOST OF COUNTRY AN ESTABLISHED FACT AND QUIXOTIC JUMBLATT CLEARLY IN A TIZZY, 'ARAFAT'S RESOLVE, MODERATION AND WILLINGNESS TO RESIST PALESTINIAN AND/OR LEFTIST DOOMSDAY APPEALS ISSONCE MORE CRITICAL FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHETHER POLITICAL PROCESS INITIATED APRIL 10 WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TOWARD SOME ULTIMATE FORM OF STABILITY.

2. WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT 'ARAFAT IS ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE TO ABANDON HIS RECENT RELATIVELY RELAXED POSTURE VIS-A-VIS SYRIAN BUILD-UP. THESE PRESSURES, FEEDING ON PALESTINIAN PARANOIA, WILL GROW IN SHORT TERM. I DO NOT FEEL THAT 'ARAFAT, EVEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH JUMBLATT, HAS THE MILITARY MUSCLE TO CONFRONT THE SYRIANS ULTIMATELY.HE COULD, HOWEVER,FACE SYRIANS WITH CHOICE OF STANDING BY AS POLITICAL STEPS FALTER

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AND COUNTRY SLIDES BACK INTO COMPLETE CHAOS, OR RAISING

THE ANTE (BY INTRODUCING FURTHER SYRIAN TROOPS) TO LEVEL  
THAT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME PLO/FATAH RESISTANCE,  
AND, AT SAME TIME, INVITE ISRAELI REACTION.

3. MY TWO WEEKS HERE HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT 'ARAFAT  
IS A MAJOR KEY TO STABILITY AND INTERNAL SECURITY IN  
LEBANON IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND FOR THE LONGER  
TERM. I THINK THAT DISCUSSION OF LEBANESE REPEAT  
LEBANESE SITUATION WITH 'ARAFAT COULD ALLAY HIS SUS-  
PICIONS OF USG INTENTIONS HERE AND STRENGTHEN HIS  
RESOLVE  
TO BEHAVE CONSTRUCTIVELY. I TRUST THIS IS BEING KEPT  
VERY MUCH IN MIND.  
BROWN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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